

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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R 212130Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7739

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 1974

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOROAS VE

SUBJ: POSSIBLE POSTPONEMENT OF OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY;
VENEZUELAN REACTION

REF: STATE 37041

1. I SPOKE THIS AFTERNOON WITH FOREIGN MINISTER ESCOVAR SALOM UPON HIS RETURN FROM AN ALL-DAY CABINET MEETING IN THE INTERIOR OF THE COUNTRY IN THE STATE OF BARINAS.

2. ESCOVAR SAID HE PERSONALLY SAW NO REPEAT NO OBJECTION TO THE SUGGESTED TWO-WEEK POSTPONEMENT OF THE CONVENING OF THE NEXT OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY. HOWEVER, HE ENTERED THE RESERVATION THAT OF COURSE HE WOULD HAVE TO CHECK WITH PRESIDENT PEREZ BEFORE GIVING ME A DEFINITIVE ANSWER. I SAID THAT FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS PRESENT IQUIRY I WOULD NOT THINK THAT NECESSARY UNLESS PRESIDENT PEREZ HAD SOME OBJECTION TO THE SUGGESTED POSTPONEMENT, IN WHICH CASE THE FOREIGN MINISTER COULD TELEPHONE ME EARLY NEXT WEEK.

3. ESCOVAR SALOM OFFERED THE CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTION THAT POSSIBLY WHEN THE SECRETARY SUGGESTS POSTPONEMENT, HE MIGHT OFFER AS AN ADDITIONAL REASON THAT THIS INTERVAL OF TIME MIGHT BE USED FOR FURTHER CONSULTATION PRIOR TO THE OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING. ESCOVAR SAID HE HAD IN MIND THE POSSIBILITY OF AN UNFAVORABLE REACTION IF SOMEONE SHOULD GET THE IDEA THAT ONCE MORE THE US WAS PUTTING OFF A MEETING WITH LATIN AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS. I
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REFRAINED FROM COMMENTING THAT THE LAST POSTPONEMENT CAME FROM

THE LATIN AMERICAN SIDE WITH REGARD TO THE MFM AT BUENOS AIRES.

4. OVER-ALL, I THINK WE MAY TAKE ESCOVAR'S REACTION AS AFFIRMATIVE
BUT THAT HIS SUGGESTION RE CONSULTATION SHOULD BE GIVEN DUE
CONSIDERATION.

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